



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager (860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0126 Proclamation Recognizing Kids' Day
America/International

Proclamation - TC

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

a. Approval of Minutes

2008-0147 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 6, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2008-0116 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Mary C. Hardesty - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Robert and Kristen Fairbanks - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Custom Marine Canvas - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Bruce Avery - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Katherine E. Zod - \$5.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Anderson-Paffard Foundation - \$1,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Mystic Irish Parade Foundation, Inc. - \$1,250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Michael Mondello of Edward Jones - \$1,167.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

James E. Bates of Edward Jones - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Robert C. Henderson of Edward Jones - \$833.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Foxwoods Resort Casino - \$2,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Chelsea Groton Savings Bank - \$1,500.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Henry V. Coatsworth - \$2,000.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Melissa Robinson - \$3.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Various Donations - \$686.92 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Paul Georgetti - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Jeffrey and Michelle Cady - \$125.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Jeffrey and Melissa Messina - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Roger and Sidney Gross - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 John and Jana Sidlinger - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Charles Rousseau - \$300.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Daniel Hubert - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Jeffrey and Mary Labasi - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Victoria and Steven Woods - \$250.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Scott and Betty Woods - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Paul and Clare Rogers - \$200.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Peter and Barbara Rogan - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 John and Susan Sedensky - \$125.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Maura and Michael Niles - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Elizabeth Fleming - \$1,408.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
 Victor Dufault - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2006-0222	Elderly Tax Freeze Legislation	Referral
2006-0223	Town Council E-Mail Accounts	Referral
2007-0081	Town Council E-Mail Communications/FOI Considerations	Referral
2007-0174	Mixed Use Zone Amendment Proposal	Referral
2008-0113	Pfizer Grant for Access to Health Care	Referral
2008-0117	Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation Grant for the Arts Cafe-Mystic Program	Referral
2008-0123	Reuse of Noank School	Referral
2008-0128	Reappointment of Stephen Jones to Shellfish Commission	Referral
2008-0129	Reappointment of John Parfitt Jr. to Board of Assessment Appeals	Referral
2008-0130	Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission	Referral
2008-0131	Reappointment of Edward Deming to Harbor Management Commission	Referral
2008-0132	Reappointment of Thomas Skrmetti to Harbor Management Commission	Referral
2008-0133	Reappointment of Barbara Block to Inland Wetlands Agency	Referral
2008-0134	Reappointment of Barbara Williams to Inland Wetlands Agency	Referral
2008-0135	Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency	Referral

2008-0136	Reappointment of Richard Fitzgerald to Planning Commission	Referral
2008-0137	Reappointment of David Williams to Water Pollution Control Authority	Referral
2008-0138	Reappointment of Scott Russotto to Zoning Board of Appeals	Referral
2008-0139	Reappointment of Edward Kolnaski to Parks and Recreation Commission	Referral
2008-0140	Reappointment of Marie Shaw to Library Board	Referral
2008-0141	Reappointment of Mary Ellen Furlong to Inland Wetlands Agency	Referral
2008-0142	Reappointment of David Russell to Permanent School Building Committee	Referral
2008-0143	Reappointment of Robert Austin-LeFrance to Permanent School Building Committee	Referral
2008-0144	Reappointment of John Wilson to Shellfish Commission	Referral
2008-0145	Reappointment of Judy Leonard to Library Board	Referral
2008-0146	Appointment of Robert Ashworth to Inland Wetlands Agency	Referral
2008-0148	Resolution in Support of Extension of Conveyance Tax	Referral

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors**
- b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**
- c. Clerk of the Council**
- d. Town Manager**
- e. Town Attorney**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy**
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond**
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski**
- d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets**
- e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt**
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne**
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**
- h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro**
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson**

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0113 Pfizer Grant for Access to Health Care Referral**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO PFIZER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, grants from Pfizer Community Programs provide funds for community vibrancy programs that revitalize communities and support local civic and cultural organizations, and

WHEREAS, funds from such a grant would allow the Town of Groton Senior Center, along with other towns and with the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut and volunteer organizations, to participate in a collaborative program of fall prevention, including individual risk assessments and home safety visits, and

WHEREAS, such a program would complement the concurrent State of Connecticut Senior Center Initiative's fall prevention grant and the Groton Senior Center's "Stretch, Strength and Balance" fitness class, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to sign a multi-town collaborative grant application for \$25,317.75 from Pfizer Community Programs.

Legislative History

4/30/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Finance Commi
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5/13/2008	Town Council Finance Committee	Recommended for a Resolution	
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2008-0117 Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation Grant for the Arts Cafe-Mystic Program Referral**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A BODENWEIN GRANT FOR THE ARTS CAFÉ-MYSTIC**

WHEREAS, the Arts Café-Mystic for fourteen years has been a popular program that provides live performances by writers and musicians, supports the local writing community, and gives scholarships to student writers at local high schools, and

WHEREAS, the Arts Café-Mystic has received grants from the Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation for many years, allowing the Town of Groton's Department of Parks and Recreation to administer the Arts Café performances, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for and accept a Bodenwein Foundation grant of \$8,500 for the grant period covering fall, 2008, and spring, 2009.

Legislative History

5/6/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Finance Commi
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5/13/2008	Town Council Finance Committee	Recommended for a Resolution	
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2008-0123 Reuse of Noank School Referral**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NOANK SCHOOL REUSE TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, the Groton Board of Education decided that the Noank School Facility was no longer needed for school purposes and the building was turned over to the Town in February 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Town has received a number of inquiries concerning the reuse of this building, and

WHEREAS, Noank School is located within the Noank Fire District and a residential area, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council to make sure that the ultimate reuse of this building is in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood, community needs, and in the best interest of the

entire community, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council wishes the Mayor to appoint a Noank School Reuse Task Force including:

1. A representative from the Town Council.
2. A representative from the Noank Fire District.
3. A representative from the RTM.
4. A representative from the Noank Zoning Commission.
5. A representative from the Groton Planning Commission
6. A representative from the Groton Parks and Recreation Commission.
7. Three representatives from the surrounding neighborhood.
8. Two representatives from the community at large.

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a Technical Advisory Board be established to assist with the necessary technical advice and assistance consisting of staff and others as necessary, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tasks of the Reuse Task Force are:

1. To determine the statutory and other limitations that are placed on the Noank School property.
2. Inventory community needs that could be accommodated at Noank Schools.
3. Make a recommendation as to whether or not the property should be permanently disposed of as surplus and/or whether or not the building should be reused to meet other public needs or if the space should be leased to an outside concern.
4. If the property is to be disposed of, to recommend a plan to solicit reuse proposals for Town Council review and action.

Legislative History

5/8/2008 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of tt

5/13/2008 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

A public information meeting on the temporary use of Noank School for the Senior Center was attended by Mayor Watson and Councilors Monteiro and Kolnaski. Many questions were asked and answered. The anticipated timeframe for the temporary relocation of the Senior Center is 18 to 24 months. Mayor Watson suggested that if a committee is formed to study the long term reuse of Noank School, their process will take about the same length of time.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that this referral deals with the ultimate use for the property and a committee would be a good way to address neighbors' concerns with future use of the property. The Town Manager reviewed the questions and concerns raised at the meetings, and the Town's attempts to address them. Whether or not the Senior Center is allowed to relocate to Noank School is ultimately up to the Noank Zoning Commission. Although staff has reviewed other options, there do not appear to be any feasible alternative locations to relocate the Senior Center.

The consensus of the Council was to support the formation of a Noank School Reuse Committee. Councilor Bond volunteered to represent the Council. Town Manager Oefinger will prepare a resolution with suggested membership.

2008-0128 Reappointment of Stephen Jones to Shellfish Commission

Referral

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING STEPHEN P. JONES TO THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Stephen P. Jones, 11 Chesbro Avenue, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Shellfish Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2012.

Legislative History

- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0129 Reappointment of John Parfitt Jr. to Board of Assessment Appeals Referral**
- REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN W. PARFITT, JR. TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS
RESOLVED, that John W. Parfitt, Jr., 32 St. Paul Court, is hereby reappointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term expiring 12/31/09.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0130 Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission Referral**
- REAPPOINTMENT OF LAURA BRADLEY TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION
RESOLVED, that Laura M. Bradley, 38 Round Hill Road, is hereby reappointed to the Fair Rent Commission for a term expiring 7/1/10.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0131 Reappointment of Edward Deming to Harbor Management Commission Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD DEMING TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
RESOLVED, that Edward Deming, 347 Old Evarts Lane, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission for the term ending 9/1/10.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0132 Reappointment of Thomas Skrmetti to Harbor Management Commission Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING THOMAS SKRMETTI AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
RESOLVED, that Thomas J. Skrmetti, 71 Lapstrake Court, Mystic is reappointed as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission, for a term ending 09/01/10.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0133 Reappointment of Barbara Block to Inland Wetlands Agency Referral**
- REAPPOINTMENT OF BARBARA BLOCK TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
RESOLVED, that Barbara Block, 142 Bay View Avenue, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/08.
- Legislative History

- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0134 Reappointment of Barbara Williams to Inland Wetlands Agency Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BARBARA WILLIAMS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
- RESOLVED, that Barbara Williams, 129 Elm Street, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/09.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0135 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EUNICE SUTPHEN TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
- RESOLVED, that Eunice Sutphen, 120 Cedar Road, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/09.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0136 Reappointment of Richard Fitzgerald to Planning Commission Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RICHARD FITZGERALD AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION
- RESOLVED, that Richard Fitzgerald, 8 Benjamin Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/12.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0137 Reappointment of David Williams to Water Pollution Control Authority Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DAVID G. WILLIAMS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
- RESOLVED, that David G. Williams, 129 Elm Street, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending 5/24/10.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0138 Reappointment of Scott Russotto to Zoning Board of Appeals Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SCOTT RUSSOTTO TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
- RESOLVED, that Scott Russotto, 25 New London Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term expiring 12/31/2012.
- Legislative History

- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0139 Reappointment of Edward Kolnaski to Parks and Recreation Commission Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD KOLNASKI TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
- RESOLVED, that Edward F. Kolnaski, 341 Ridgewood Drive, Mystic is hereby appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term expiring 12/31/12.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0140 Reappointment of Marie Shaw to Library Board Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARIE SHAW TO THE LIBRARY BOARD
- RESOLVED, that Marie C. Shaw, 20 Colony Road, is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for a term expiring 12/31/10.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0141 Reappointment of Mary Ellen Furlong to Inland Wetlands Agency Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARY ELLEN FURLONG AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
- RESOLVED, that Mary Ellen Furlong, 57 Fishtown Lane, Mystic, is reappointed as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Agency with a term ending 12/31/09.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0142 Reappointment of David Russell to Permanent School Building Committee Referral**
- RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DAVID E. RUSSELL TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
- RESOLVED, that David E. Russell, 73 Ronald Road, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/10.
- Legislative History
- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0143 Reappointment of Robert Austin-LeFrance to Permanent School Building Committee Referral**
- REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J. AUSTIN-LAFRANCE TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
- RESOLVED, that Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, 207 Plant Street, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term expiring 9/29/10.

Legislative History

- 5/14/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0144 **Reappointment of John Wlson to Shellfish Commission** **Referral**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JOHN M. WILSON AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that John M. Wilson, 1 Appletree Lane, West Mystic is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Shellfish Commission for a term expiring 12/31/12.

Legislative History

- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0145 **Reappointment of Judy Leonard to Library Board** **Referral**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JUDY LEONARD TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Judy Leonard, 14 Sequin Drive, Noank, is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/10.

Legislative History

- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0146 **Appointment of Robert Ashworth to Inland Wetlands Agency** **Referral**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBERT ASHWORTH AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Robert L. Ashworth, 39 Whitney Road, Mystic, is hereby appointed as a regular member, from an alternate member, to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/08.

Legislative History

- 5/13/2008 Town Council Recommended for a
Personnel/Appointments/Rules Resolution
/Legislation Committee
- 2008-0148 **Resolution in Support of Extension of Conveyance Tax** **Referral**

RESOLUTION FOR ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX

WHEREAS, the state's authorization for municipalities to add fourteen hundredths of one percent (0.14%) to the Real Estate Conveyance Tax as additional local revenue is set to expire by its own terms on July 1, 2008, and

WHEREAS, the state has failed to augment, from other sources, the local property tax as the primary source of funding for education, and

WHEREAS, the conveyance tax supplement is especially important to Groton in this year when the state budget will revert to the Educational Cost Sharing level that was provided in the original Biennial Budget for Fiscal year 2009, and

WHEREAS, the augmented Conveyance Tax has proven to be a crucially important source of revenue for Groton and all towns, without taking funds from the State budget or adding to the general property tax burden that prevails in most municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has found that there is a lack of convincing evidence that the supplemental tax has had any materially adverse impact on real estate transactions since its adoption four years ago, and

WHEREAS, the extension of the supplemental Conveyance Tax did not come to a vote in the regular session of the 2008 General Assembly, and the Assembly consequently will be reconvened in Special Session to decide on whether to continue the tax or let it expire, and

WHEREAS, the state legislature is likely to pay attention to concerted action by elected officials from this region, and Mayor Watson has the standing to advocate for a regionally-based statement or petition by towns in the Southeastern Connecticut Conference of Governments (SECOG), to demand the extension of the supplemental Conveyance Tax, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council authorizes its Mayor, Harry A. Watson, to approach the legislature during its upcoming Special Session, as well as to lead a delegation of other elected officials of the town, to press the case for a permanent extension of the subject tax, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Watson is likewise authorized to prepare and/or promote a complementary statement or petition by the SECOG on behalf of the towns of our region.

Legislative History

5/13/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
2008-0124	Potential Amendments to the Non-Union Retirement Program		Referral

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT